



LAKE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

DONALD R. BELL
SHERIFF / CORONER

BEN WOODS
UNDERSHERIFF

106 Fourth Avenue East, Polson, Montana 59860 Phone: 406-883-7301 Fax: 406-883-7305

PRESS RELEASE

November 22, 2015

At approximately 5 a.m. on Sunday, November 22, 2015, a Lake County Sheriff's Deputy was starting his shift in the Ronan area, when, while walking from his house to his marked LCSO patrol vehicle, he observed a red laser dot pointed at his chest. Fearing he was possibly going to be shot, he sought cover and observed that the source of the laser was a vehicle parked at the end of his driveway. The deputy then gave chase to the vehicle and the pursuit lasted approximately 10 minutes and reached speeds of 80 mph on paved and gravel county roads. The pursuit included LCSO Sheriff's Deputies as well as Flathead Tribal Police. The pursuit ended in the Pablo area on the Hwy 93 Frontage Road.

When the pursuit ended, the driver, identified as Marlo Albia Tonasket, fled on foot and was not captured. A passenger, Matthew Manyhides of Polson was arrested on outstanding warrants for felony possession of drugs and DUI. A female passenger was detained for purposes of investigation, but later released without charges, pending further investigation. Execution of search warrants is underway, and it is still unknown if the source of the laser light was a firearm or a laser pointer.

The Lake County Sheriff's Office would like to ask the public to contact the Sheriff's Office if Tonasket is seen. Tonasket has an outstanding warrant from Shoshone County, Idaho, for possession of stolen property. Please do not approach or attempt to capture Tonasket, simply notify law enforcement of his whereabouts. Tonasket is a 36 year old Native American male, 5'11", 180 lbs, brown hair and eyes.

UPDATE: **Vehicle was searched and no laser pointer or firearm was located. Tonasket has still not been located.

Ben Woods

Undersheriff

(To the press: If you wish to obtain a digital photograph of Tonasket, please email me at bwoods@lakemt.gov)